



NEWS RELEASE

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NEW SIREN ENROUTE TO SCOTIA VIA USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Lincoln, Neb., March 29, 2005—The 300 plus residents of Scotia will be alerted by a new emergency siren thanks in part to an United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development grant of \$9,900. Monies will be leveraged with \$8,150 from the Village.

"The new siren will be a great asset to our community," stated Scotia Fire Chief Jay Meyer. "Residents will benefit from the advanced warning the siren offers of emergency situations."

Scotia's new siren will be sized and located in the community making it fully audible by all residents. The control system will have the capability to be activated by both the Village and the Region 26 Communication Center in Taylor, Neb. The Center will improve the timeframes for warnings of adverse weather conditions and response time to emergency calls.

Area Director Lennis Hodgson of USDA Rural Development stated, "USDA is pleased to help rural communities, such as Scotia, to achieve greater protection by having the proper equipment in place to alert residents when the need arises."

Scotia's current siren system is not audible by the entire village and can only be activated from two locations within the community, one being a private business.

USDA funds were awarded through the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant program. Contact Lennis Hodgson, lennis.hodgson@ne.usda.gov, 4009 North 6th Avenue Kearney, Neb. 68848 or phone (308) 237-3118, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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